<div align="center">**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**</div>

Claim Amendments

The Applicant has not amended any claims. Applicant respectfully submits no new matter has been added. Claims 1-17 and 19-20 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Applicant respectfully submits that support for the amendments is found on page 10, lines 12-15. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of amended claims 1 and 19 and the respective depending claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-17, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ejzak (20030027569 A1), (hereinafter Ejzak). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of these claims and submits that the Ejzak reference does not disclose every limitation cited in independent claims 1 and 19.

As noted in previous communications, the Applicant claims a method and node in a communications network that can accommodate the tasks of a node as part of both a layered architectural environment (e.g., MSC-Server) and a non-layered environment (e.g., MSC/VLR). An operation mode is determined for processing a communication service request. The operation mode for the network node is determined by the determination of the access type of the communication service request. The access type of the communication service request is determined from a retrieved protocol that is utilized in the incoming communication service request. Responsive to the determined access type, the operation mode is then determined (see page 9, lines 24-30 and page 10, lines 12-15).

The Ejzak reference teaches that an MSC is the equivalent of a combination MSC and MGW. As an example, in paragraph [0095] Ejzak states that "... [t]he term MSC refers to the combination of an MSC server and any MGW it controls. Similarly, the term iMSC refers to the combination of an iMSC server and any MGW it controls." Ejzak teaches combinations of MSC and MGW and iMSC and MGW (a layered environment) because Ejzak requires a MGW. Further, the Ejzak reference does not disclose or teach a non-layered environment as in the Applicant's invention where a node handles all traffic, i.e., without an added MGW.
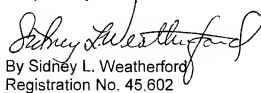
Ejzak does not disclose determining the operation mode by first determining the access type of the communication service request from a retrieved protocol utilized in the communication service request. Nor does Ejzak teach a node that is part of a non-layered environment that handles all traffic without an additional MGW. The Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 19 and the respective depending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

By Sidney L. Weatherford
Registration No. 45,602

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Ericsson Inc.
6300 Legacy Drive, M/S EVR 1-C-11
Plano, Texas 75024

(972) 583-8656
sidney.weatherford@ericsson.com